

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 10, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1720

Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom

February 13, 2014

An act to amend Section 35554 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1720, as amended, Bloom. Vehicles: bus gross weight.

Existing law generally prohibits a publicly owned or operated transit system from procuring a transit bus whose weight on any single axle exceeds 20,500 pounds. Existing law, until January 1, 2015, exempts from this prohibition a transit system that is procuring a new bus that is of the same or lesser weight than the bus it is replacing, or if it is incorporating a new fleet class into its inventory and its governing board makes certain findings.

This bill would extend the operation of those exceptions until January 1, ~~2016~~, 2016, and would also, until January 1, 2016, authorize a transit system to procure a transit bus that exceeds 20,500 pounds if it is incorporating a new fleet class expansion.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 35554 of the Vehicle Code, as amended
- 2 by Section 3 of Chapter 771 of the Statutes of 2012, is amended
- 3 to read:

1 35554. (a) (1) Notwithstanding Section 35550, the gross
2 weight on any one axle of a bus shall not exceed 20,500 pounds.

3 (2) A transit bus procured through a solicitation process
4 pursuant to which a solicitation was issued before January 1, 2013,
5 or through a solicitation process pursuant to subdivision (d) is not
6 subject to this subdivision.

7 (b) A transit bus is not subject to Section 35550.

8 (c) A transit bus shall not operate on the Dwight D. Eisenhower
9 System of Interstate and Defense Highways in excess of the weight
10 limitation for transit buses specified in federal law.

11 (d) (1) A publicly owned or operated transit system or an
12 operator of a transit system under contract with a publicly owned
13 or operated transit system shall not procure, through a solicitation
14 process pursuant to which a solicitation is issued on or after January
15 1, 2013, a transit bus whose gross weight on any single axle
16 exceeds 20,500 pounds except as follows:

17 (A) It may procure and operate a new bus whose gross weight
18 exceeds 20,500 pounds on any single axle that is of the same or
19 lesser gross weight per axle than the bus it is replacing.

20 (B) It may procure and operate a new transit bus whose gross
21 weight exceeds 20,500 pounds on any single axle in order to
22 incorporate *a fleet class expansion* or a new fleet class into its
23 inventory if its governing board adopts a finding at a public hearing
24 that the fleet class expansion or change in fleet classes is necessary
25 to address a need to serve a new or existing market pursuant to its
26 most recently adopted short-range transit plan, or to meet a federal,
27 state, or regional statutory or regulatory requirement, and includes
28 a consideration of vehicle needs and fleet size.

29 (2) If the governing board of the publicly owned or operated
30 transit system holds a public hearing to consider a procurement
31 made pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), the
32 board shall provide written notice to those cities and counties on
33 whose roads the bus would travel of the public hearing at which
34 this procurement is to be considered and shall place in the public
35 record any comment of concern the board receives about the
36 procurement.

37 (3) For purposes of this ~~subdivision~~ *subdivision*, “fleet class”
38 means a group of transit buses designated by a publicly owned or
39 operated transit system or an operator under contract with a
40 publicly owned or operated transit system that owns those transit

buses, if the transit buses have a combination of two or more of the following similar defining characteristics:

- (A) Length.
- (B) Seating capacity.
- (C) Number of axles.
- (D) Fuel or power system.
- (E) Width.
- (F) Structure.
- (G) Equipment package.

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2016, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. Section 35554 of the Vehicle Code, as added by Section 4 of Chapter 771 of the Statutes of 2012, is amended to read:

35554. (a) (1) Notwithstanding Section 35550, the gross weight on any one axle of a bus shall not exceed 20,500 pounds.

(2) A transit bus procured through a solicitation process pursuant to which a solicitation was issued before January 1, 2013, is not subject to this subdivision.

(b) A transit bus is not subject to Section 35550.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.